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INTRODUCTION

Goals are statements which indicate what is to be achieved or worked toward. In relation to basic education, goals serve several functions:

- (1) they identify the distinctive role of the school and its contribution to the total education of youth;
- (2) they provide purpose and direction to curriculum planning, implementation and evaluation;
- (3) they enable parents, teachers and the community at large to develop a common understanding of what the schools are trying to achieve.

Society must periodically re-examine the goals of its schools. Changes in emphasis and minor adjustment of the basic goals may be required from time to time to keep pace with social change.

This statement of goals is to direct education for grades 1 through 12 in Alberta schools. It is the basis from which specific objectives for various subjects and grades shall be developed.

While the school makes a very important contribution to education, it is only one of the agencies involved in the education of youth. The home, the church, the media and community organizations are very significant influences on children. It is useful, therefore, to delimit the role of schooling in education. Education refers to all the learning experiences the individual has in interacting with the physical and social environment; it is a continuing and lifelong process. Schooling, which has a more limited purpose, refers to the learning activities planned and conducted by a formally structured agency which influences individuals during a specified period. There is, of course, a very close relationship between schooling and education - the learning which occurs in school influences and is influenced by what is learned outside the school.

GOALS OF SCHOOLING

Schooling, as part of education, accepts primary and distinctive responsibility for specific goals basic to the broader goals of education. Programs and activities shall be planned, taught and evaluated on the basis of these specific goals in order that students:

- Develop competencies in reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing.
- Acquire basic knowledge and develop skills and attitudes in mathematics, the practical and fine arts, the sciences, and the social studies (including history and geography), with appropriate local, national, and international emphasis in each.
- Develop the learning skills of finding, organizing, analyzing, and applying information in a constructive and objective manner.
- Acquire knowledge and develop skills, attitudes and habits which contribute to physical, mental and social well-being.
- Develop an understanding of the meaning, responsibilities, and benefits of active citizenship at the local, national and international levels.
- Acquire knowledge and develop skills, attitudes, and habits required to respond to the opportunities and expectations of the world of work.

Because the above goals are highly interrelated, each complementing and reinforcing the others, priority ranking among them is not suggested. It is recognized that in sequencing learning activities for students some goals are emphasized earlier than others; however, in relation to the total years of schooling, they are of equal importance.

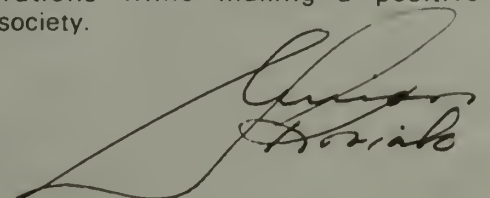
In working toward the attainment of its goals, the school will strive for excellence. However, the degree of individual achievement also depends on student ability and motivation as well as support from the home. Completion of diploma requirements is expected to provide the graduate with basic preparation for lifelong learning. Dependent on program choices, the diploma also enables job entry or further formal study.

GOALS OF EDUCATION

Achievement of the broader goals of education must be viewed as a shared responsibility of the community. Maximum learning occurs when the efforts and expectations of various agencies affecting children complement each other. Recognizing the learning that has or has not occurred through various community influences, among which the home is most important, the school will strive to:

- Develop intellectual curiosity and a desire for lifelong learning.
- Develop the ability to get along with people of varying backgrounds, beliefs and lifestyles.
- Develop a sense of community responsibility which embraces respect for law and authority, public and private property, and the rights of others.
- Develop self-discipline, self-understanding, and a positive self-concept through realistic appraisal of one's capabilities and limitations.
- Develop an appreciation for tradition and the ability to understand and respond to change as it occurs in personal life and in society.
- Develop skills for effective utilization of financial resources and leisure time and for constructive involvement in community endeavors.
- Develop an appreciation for the role of the family in society.
- Develop an interest in cultural and recreational pursuits.
- Develop a commitment to the careful use of natural resources and to the preservation and improvement of the physical environment.
- Develop a sense of purpose in life and ethical or spiritual values which respect the worth of the individual, justice, fair play and fundamental rights, responsibilities and freedoms.

The ultimate aim of education is to develop the abilities of the individual in order that he might fulfill his personal aspirations while making a positive contribution to society.



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